

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS TS

SUBJECT: BILATERAL EXERCISES WITH TUNISIAN NAVY

REF: TUNIS 617 (NOTAL)

1. PARA 3 REFTEL DISCUSSED PROPOSED BILATERAL
EXERCISE BETWEEN TNS DPB AND DESTROYER OF US SIXTHFLT.
CURRENT CONCEPT ENVISIONS CONDUCTING SMALL SCALE
EXERCISE IN JUNE OR JULY 75 BASED UPON FOLLOWING
FACTORS:

A. DESTROYER PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA (DPB) TO BE
OPERATIONAL FOLLOWING THREE TO FOUR WEEK TENDER
AVAILABILITY (TAV) BY US SIXTHFLT TENDER IN NAPLES.
EXACT DATE OF TAV DEPENDENT UPON RECEIPT SPARE PARTS
NOW ON ORDER BUT WE EXPECT IT TO BE MIDDLE OF MAY
OR FIRST OF JUNE.

B. FOLLOWING TAV, US SIXTHFLT WILL PROVIDE A
MOBILE TRAINING TEAM (MTT) OF ABOUT THREE WEEKS
DURATION. TEAM WILL CONDUCT DAILY AT-SEA AND INPORT
TRAINING EXERCISES IN ENGINEERING CASUALTY CONTROL,
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COMMUNICATIONS, COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER (CIC),

OPERATIONS GUNNERY, ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE (ASW), AND DAMAGE CONTROL/FIREFIGHTING. SUBJECT TRAINING TO BE CONDUCTED INPORT NAPLES AND AT SEA VICINITY NAPLES. TRAINING DESIGNED TO BRING DPB TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SHIP PURCHASE OCT 73.

C. COMSIXTHFLT PROPOSED THAT DPB JOIN A SIXTHFLT DESTROYER FOR BILATERAL EXERCISE (BILATEX), FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF MTT TRAINING. BILATEX COULD BE CONDUCTED WHILE DPB ENROUTE NAPLES TO BIZERTE. ONE USN OFFICER FOR SIXTHFLT UNTIL WOULD BE ON BOARD DPB DURING EXERCISE TO ADVISE AND PROVIDE LIAISON. BILATEX TRAINING WOULD LAST APPROX THREE DAYS. TRAINING PROPOSED IN AREAS OF: ASW (POSSIBLY WITH SUBMARINE FROM US SIXTHFLT IF AVAILABLE); GUNNERY PRACTICE (IF AIRCRAFT TOW TARGET SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND/OR SURFACE TARGET TOW SHIP); TWO SHIP FORMATION MANEUVERS AND TACTICS; SIMPLE AT SEA "HILINE" TRANSFER; AND TRACKING OF AIRCRAFT FROM US SIXTHFLT TO TRAIN CIC PERSONNEL.

2. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE PROPOSED BILATERAL EXERCISE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOT. EVEN SO, IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES APPROVE, WE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS IT MORE THOROUGHLY WITH MOFA BEFORE FINAL COMMITMENT. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS CONVENIENT.
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